

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application N .	Applicant(s)	
	10/025,318	BUONOCUNTO, NICHOLAS	
	Examin r	Art Unit	
	THUY V. TRAN	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--  
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 4/30/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 12-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|---|---|



THUY V. TRAN  
Examiner  
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### DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicant's amendment submitted on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004. In virtue of this amendment, claims 5-11 are cancelled; claims 12-15 are newly added; and thus, claims 1-4 and 12-15 are now presented in the instant application.

#### *Examiner's Amendment*

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

This Examiner's amendment is purposefully made to correct some existing typographical errors in the claims, to rectify the claimed terminology for consistency, and to improve antecedent basis, and thus to provide a proper characterization of the claimed invention.

The Examiner believes that this amendment does not affect any scope of any claim as originally filed.

The Applicant is noted that a telephone call was made to Mr. James W. Badie on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 to expect a discussion in regard to this amendment. However, no response was made afterwards.

This amendment includes:

#### **Claim 1:**

Line 5, insert --an output for-- between "and" and "providing";

Line 11, insert --an-- between "supplying" and "oscillating";

Line 13, insert --said-- between "to" and "first";

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Line 14, insert --first-- between “said” and “inverter”; replace “system” with --ballast circuit--; and insert --first fluorescent-- after “said” (second occurrence);

**Claim 2:**

Line 5, insert --an output for-- between “and” (first occurrence) and “providing”;

Line 11, replace “positive” with --a positive terminal--; and insert --a-- between “and” and “negative” (first occurrence);

**Claim 4:**

Line 4, insert --first-- between “said” and “sweep”;

Line 5, insert --first-- between “said” (first occurrence) and “sweep”;

**Claim 12:**

Line 2, replace “,” (first occurrence) with --including--;

Line 8, insert --an output for-- between “and” and “providing”;

Line 12, replace “,” with --including--;

Line 15, insert --lamp-- between “fluorescent” and “and”;

**Claim 13:**

Line 5, insert --an output for-- between “and” (first occurrence) and “providing”;

Line 12, replace “if” with --of--;

Line 18, replace “a” with --said--;

**Claim 14:**

Line 2, delete “further”;

Line 3, change “said” (first occurrence) to --an--; and insert --ballast circuit-- between “inverter” and “to”; and

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**Claim 15:**

Line 2, delete “further”; and insert --a sweep frequency circuit and-- between “comprises” and “fault”.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-4 and 12-15 are allowed.

***Reasons for Allowance***

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- An electronic ballast system comprising an emergency inverter ballast circuit for supplying power to the first fluorescent lamp when the first inverter ballast circuit is disabled, without preheating the first fluorescent lamp, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 1 (claims 2-4 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 1); and
- An electronic ballast system for operating four fluorescent lamps including a first fluorescent lamp, a second fluorescent lamp, a third fluorescent lamp, and a fourth fluorescent lamp comprising an emergency inverter ballast circuit for supplying power to one of said fluorescent lamps when said other fluorescent lamps are disabled without preheating said fluorescent lamp, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 12 (claims 13-15 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 12).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*Inquiry*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THUY V. TRAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DON WONG can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

THUY V. TRAN  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2821

T.T.  
06/01/2004

